

A time-line of the Arabs, the Turks and the Persians (and Central Asia)

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See also [a timeline of the Near East](#)

See also [a timeline of the Persians](#)

See also [a timeline of the Xiongnu](#)

1500 BC: the Jewish patriarch Abraham (Ibrahim) founds the shrine of Mecca ("kaaba")

853BC: First reference to Arabs in an Assyrian inscription

200BC: Mao-tun unites the Turkic-speaking Huns (Xiongnu, Hsiung-nu) in Central Asia around Lake Bajkal and southeastern Mongolia

121BC: China defeats the Huns

275 AD: the Lakhmids of Hira (on the Euphrates) are vassals of the Sassanids

300: "qasida" poems

350: the Aramaic-speaking Nabataeans (Jordan) develop the Arabic script

460:

460: Persian king Firuz persecutes Jews, who emigrate to Arabia

500: southern Arabia is ruled by a Jewish kingdom

500: northern Arabia is ruled by the Kinda

500: the Arabs of Najran (southern Arabia) convert to Christianity

504: Mundhir III becomes king of the Lakhmids of Hira

512: First recorded inscription in Arabic

522: the Jewish Himyarite king of Yemen persecutes the Christians, which ask the Ethiopians for help

523: the Himyarites defeat the Ethiopians and massacre the Christians of Najran

525: the Jewish king Dhu Nuwas of Yemen dies and Yemen becomes an Ethiopian (Christian) colony

528: Harith ibn 'Amr (Arethas) king of Kinda dies

547: Abyssinian general Abreha proclaims himself king of southern Arabia

552: Turkic people led by Tumin destroy the Juan-juan (Avars) and establish the Turkic Khaganate in Central Asia

553: Tumin dies and the Turkic Khaganate splits into Western and Eastern Khanates

554: Mundhir III is defeated by the Byzantine phylarch Ghassanid Harith IV ibn Jabala

567: the western Turkic Khaganate invades Transoxania

570: Christian Ethiopia tries to capture Mecca but is defeated by the Arabs

575: Yemen becomes a Sassanid province under Chosroes II

Caliphs

632-34 Abu Bakr

634-44 Umar ibn al-Khattab

644-56 Uthman ibn Affan

656-61 Ali ibn Abi Talib

661-80 Muawiya I

680-82 Yazid I

683 Mu'awiya II

684-85 Marwan I

685-705 Abd al-Malik

705-15 Walid I

715-17 Sulaiman

717-20 Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz

720-24 Yazid II

724-43 Hisham

743-44 Walid II

744 Yazid III

744 Ibrahim

744-50 Marwan II

750-54 Abu al Abbas al-Saffah

754-75 Al-Mansur

775-85 Al-Mahdi

785-86 Al-Hadi

786-809 Harun Al-Rashid

809-13 Al-Amin

813-33 Al-Mamun

833-42 Al-Mu'tasim

842-47 Al-Wathiq

847-61 Al-Mutawakkil

861-62 Al-Muntasir

862-66 Al-Musta'in

866-69 Al-Mu'tazz

869-70 Al-Muqtadi

870-92 Al-Mu'tamid

892-902 Al-Mu'tadid

902-8 Al-Muqtafi

908-32 Al-Muqtadir

932-34 Al-Qahir

934-40 Al-Radi

940-44 Al-Muttaqi

600: Steel is invented in Iran (Persia)
602: the Lakhmid dynasty of Hira ends
603: the western Turkic Khaganate self-destructs in a civil war
608: the Kaaba is erected in Mecca, a granite cube to enclose a black meteorite stone, a shrine to numerous Arabian tribal gods
610: Muhammad (Mohammed) of the Quraysh family preaches a new religion, Islam, in Mecca
615: Muslims travel to Ethiopia
622: Mohammed and his followers migrate ("heijra") to Yathrib, which is renamed Medina
627: Mohammed kills 700 Jews of the tribe of Qurayza
628: Yemen converts to Islam
629: Mohammed wins the battle of Khaybar and beheads all the Jews
630: the Muslims conquer Mecca
630: the eastern Turkic Khaganate is conquered by China
632: the Muslims conquer the Arabian peninsula
632: Muhammad delivers his last sermon on Mount Arafat
632: Mohammed dies
632: the Shiites, or Partisans of Ali, claim that Ali should succeed Mohammed based on blood relation, but the council of the elderly (Sunnites) chooses instead Abu Bakr
632: Abu Bakr, one of Mohammed's followers and the first Muslim caliph ("prophet's successor"), quells upheavals throughout Arabia and declares war on the Roman (Byzantine) and Persian (Sassanid) empires
633: Abu Bakr conquers southern Mesopotamia
634: Abu Bakr defeats Byzantium in Palestine
634: Abu Bakr is succeeded by Umar ibn al-Khattab
636: the Arabs capture Jerusalem
636: the Arabs capture Seleucia-Ctesiphon and the Sassanid empire ends
639: the Arabs conquer Syria (mainly Nestorian) from Byzantium
642: the Arabs conquer Egypt (mainly monophysite) from Byzantium, destroy the library of Alexandria and found the first mosque in Africa, Amr ibn al-As Mosque (the site of future Cairo)
642: Oldest extant manuscript in Arabic (with disambiguation dots)
644: Umar is murdered and is succeeded by Uthman ibn Affan, a Quraysh
647: the Arabs expand in northern Africa
649: the Arabs attack Byzantium on the sea and conquer Cyprus
650: the Arabs conquer the whole of Persia
650: Yousuf ibn al-Asad dies
655: the text of the Quran/Koran is finalized
656: Uthman is murdered and is succeeded by Ali (cousin and son-in-law of Mohammed), the first "imam" of Shiah (and only one to become also caliph), who moves the capital from Medina to Kufa
661: Ali is murdered and is succeeded as caliph by Mu'awiya ibn Abi Sufyan, first of the Umayyads and first caliph not to be an early follower of Mohammed, and by Hasan as imam

944-46 Al-Mustaqfi
 946-74 Al-Muti
 974-91 Al-Ta'i
 991-1031 Al-Qadir
 1031-75 Al-Qa'im
 1075-94 Al-Muqtadi
 1094-1118 Al-Mustazhir
 1118-35 Al-Mustashid
 1135-36 Al-Rashid
 1136-60 Al-Muqtafi
 1160-70 Al-Mustanjid
 1170-80 Al-Mustadi
 1180-1225 Al-Nasir
 1225-26 Al-Zahir
 1226-42 Al-Mustansir
 1242-56 Al-Mustasim

Cordoba

756-88 Abd ar-Rahman I
 788-96 Hisham I
 796-822 Al-Hakam I
 822-52 Abd ar-Rahman II
 852-86 Muhammad I
 886-88 Al Mundhir
 888-912 Abdallah
 912-61 Abd ar-Rahman III
 961-76 Al-Hakam II al Mustansir
 976-1009 Hisham II al Muayyad
 1009-10 Muhammad II al-Mahdi
 1009-10 Sulaiman al-Mustain
 1010-13 Hisham II
 1013-16 Sulaiman
 1016-18 Ali ben Hammud
 1018 Abd ar-Rahman IV
 1018-21 Al-Qasim
 1021-22 Yahya
 1022-23 Al-Qasim
 1023-24 Abd ar-Rahman V
 1024-25 Muhammad III
 1025-27 Yahya
 1027-31 Hisham III

Egypt

909-34 Al-Mahdi
 934-45 Al-Qaim

661: Mu'awiya moves the capital to Damascus (in Syria rather than Arabia) and creates an army of paid mercenaries

662: Ziyad ibn Abihi is appointed governor of Iraq (Basra) and the former Sassanid provinces

664: the Arabs conquer Afghanistan

669: Hasan dies and Hussein becomes imam

670: the Arabs led by Uqba ibn Nafi fight the Berbers in northern Africa

670: the Arabs found Qayrawan in Tunisia

680: Mu'awiya dies and the shiite pretendent to the Caliphate, Husayn/Hussein, Ali's son and Mohammed's grandson, is assassinated by sunnite troops of Mu'awiya's son Yazid in Karbala

682: the eastern Turkic Khaganate regain independence from China under Kutluk

685: Abd Malik becomes caliph and introduces administrative reforms (Arabic language as the official language, coins with Islamic verses)

691: the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is the oldest evidence of the Quran

692: Hajjaj ibn Yusuf captures Mecca and ends the anti-caliphate of Abdallah ibn Zubayr (shiite)

694: Tugluk's brother Khapghan extend the Turkic empire over Transoxania, thus unifying eastern and western Turks

695: the Arabs build the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem (with the first inscription from the Koran)

696: Arabic becomes the official language of the Islamic world

697: the Arabs force the Persians to abandon the Pahlavi alphabet in favor of the Arabic script

698: the Arabs recapture Carthage and found Tunis

700: Hasan Basri preaches virtue, mortification, prayer, purity of heart to attain knowledge of God

705: caliph Walid I

708: Arabs led by Musa ibn-Nusayr conquer Tangiers (Morocco) and subdue the Berbers

709: Qutayba ibn Muslim invades Central Asia (Merv, Bukhara, Samarkand)

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709: the Al Aqsa mosque is built in Jerusalem

710: a mosque is built in Damascus

711: Tariq ibn Ziyad conquers southern Spain from the Visigoths of king Roderic (with help from the Jews) and Cordoba becomes the residence of the Arab governor

712: a Berber army under Tariq ibn Ziyad conquers southern Spain from the Visigoths and Cordoba becomes the residence of the Arab governor

712: the first mosque is built in Bukhara, which will become the second holiest city in Islam after Mecca

715: calip Sulayman besieges Byzantium

715: a mosque is built in Aleppo

712: the Arabs, led by Kutayba ben Muslim, conquer Transoxania and convert the Turks to Islam

945-52 Al-Mansur
 952-75 Al-Muizz
 975-96 Al-Aziz
 996-1021 Al-Hakim
 1021-36 Az-Zahir
 1036-94 Al-Mustansir
 1094-1101 Al-Mustadi
 1101-30 Al-Amir
 1130-49 Al-Hafiz
 1149-54 Az-Zafir
 1154-60 Al-Faiz
 1160-71 Al-Adid

Ottomans

Osman Ghazi I (1300-1326)
 Orkhan Ghazi I (1326-1360)
 Ghazi Mourad I (1360-1389)
 Ghazi Yldirim Baiezd I (1389-1413)
 Ghazi Mehmet I (1413-1421)
 Mourad II (1421-1451)
 Ghazi Mehmet II (1440-1481)
 Baiezed II (1481-1512)
 Ghazi Selim I (1512-1520)
 Suleyman I (1520-1566)
 Ghazi Selim II (1566-1574)
 Mourad III (1574-1595)
 Ghazi Mehmet III (1595-1603)
 Ahmed I (1603-1617)
 Mustapha I (1617-1623)
 Osman II (1617-1622)
 Ghazi Mourad IV (1623-1640)
 Ibrahim I (1639-1648)
 Mehmet IV (1648-1693)
 Suleyman II (1687-1691)
 Ahmed II (1691-1695)
 Ghazi Mustapha II (1695-1704)
 Ahmed III (1703-1736)
 Mahmoud I (1730-1754)
 Osman II (1754-1757)
 Moustapha III (1757-1774)
 Abdulhamid I (1774-1789)
 Selim III (1789-1808)
 Moustapha IV (1807-1808)
 Mahmoud II (1808-1839)
 Abdul Majid (1839-1861)
 Abdul Asis (1861-1876)
 Mourad V (1876-1876)
 Abdulhamid II (1876- 1909)

715: Qutayba dies and Muslim expansion in Central Asia comes to an end

720: the Zayids do not recognize the imam Baqir and cause a split within the shiites

720: the Arabs capture Narbonne

725: the Arabs capture Carcassonne

728: caliph Hisham attacks the Franks at Tours and Poitiers

732: the Muslim invasion of Europe is stopped by the Franks at the battle of Tours

737: the Arabs capture Provence

740: the Shias of Yemen split from the main Shia tradition claiming that Zayd was the rightful fifth imam instead of Muhammad al Baqir

744: the Turkic empire self-destructs again in a civil war

749: Abu 'l-'Abbas Saffah, whose army is led by the Persian general Abu Muslim Khorasani, replaces the Umayyad dynasty with the Abbasid dynasty

751: the Arabs defeat the Chinese at the battle of the Talas River

751: the Arabs acquire the knowledge of paper from the Chinese

752: the Franks under Pippin expel the Arabs from Provence

756: the last surviving member of the Umayyad dynasty flees to Spain, establishing himself as Cabd al-Rahman I of Spain, which becomes a separate emirate

750: the Ibadis believe that that the most worthy person should be imam and found an imamate in Oman

759: the Muslim army retreats over the Pyrenees

760: the Islails do not recognize the seventh imam Musa Kazim and cause another split within the shiites

762: the Abbasid caliph Al-Mansur moves the capital from Damascus to Baghdad, built near the old Sassanid capital, Ctesiphon

775: Al-Mansur dies

777: Ibadis form an imamate in western Algeria with capital in Tahart

778: Roland is defeated at Roncesvalles

785: the Great Mosque at Cordoba

786: Harun Rashid becomes caliph

790: Idris, a descendant of Ali, conquers Morocco and founds the Idrisid dynasty

793: Sibawayh formalizes the Arabic language

793: caliph Haroun-el-Raschid establishes paper factory in Baghdad

800: Arab merchants travel to China

800: Shafi preaches that God's will is manifested both by the Koran and by the "sunna" (the practice of Mohammed embodied in "hadiths")

800: the Aghlabids in Tunisia become virtually independent

809: Harun Rashid dies, after expanding the caliphate from Gibraltar to the Indu river

819: the Samanids in Khurasan (Transoxania) become virtually independent

Mehmet V (1909 - 1923)

Turkish presidents

1923 - 1938 Mustafa Kemal Pascha "Ataturk"

1938 - 1950 Ismet Inonu

1950 - 1960 Celal Bayar

1960 - 1966 Cemal Gursel

1966 - 1973 Cevdet Sunay

1973 - 1980 Fahri Koruturk

1980 - 1989 Kenan Evren

1989 - 1993 Turgut Ozal

1993 - 2000 Suleyman Demirel

2000 - Ahmet Necdet Sezer

- 822:** Abd al Rahman II becomes the Arab emir of Spain and begins construction of the Alcazar of Sevilla
- 825:** caliph Al-Mamun sponsors translations of Greek classics into Arabic, and founds the first madrasa (a "house of wisdom" in Baghdad)
- 825:** the Arab mathematician Al Khwarizmi of Baghdad writes a book on "Hindu numerals" that spreads the use of "Arabic" numerals
- 827:** an Arab tribe, the Saracens, invade Sicily
- 830:** Ahmad ibn Hanbal: strict obedience to the Koran and the Hadith
- 833:** Sultan al-Mutasim creates a regiment of Turkish slaves
- 840:** the sufist Muhasibi preaches the path to truth
- 840:** Islamic philosophy is founded by Kindi
- 840:** Sibovayh, a Persian scholar, codifies the Arabic grammar and writes the first Arabic dictionary
- 846:** the Uighurs state collapses and the Karakhanid state is founded in Transoxania
- 849:** caliph al-Mutawakkil deposes the patriarch of the Eastern Christian Church and persecutes Christians
- 878:** the Muslims conquer all of Sicily
- 930:** the philosopher Farabi reconciles the philosopher's logic and religion as a symbolic system to express truth to non-philosophers
- 850:** Hunayn ibn Ishaq translates Greek classics
- 850:** the Persian mathematician Khwarazmi founds Algebra and invents the Arabix numerals
- 870:** Bukhari collects and classifies the "hadiths"
- 867:** the Saffarids (shiite) in eastern Persia become virtually independent with capital in Zaranj (Afghanistan)
- 868:** Ahmad ibn Tulun proclaims Egypt independent and founds the Tulunid dynasty
- 873:** the Samanids (sunni), with capital in Bukhara, rule over Transoxania
- 874:** the twelfth imam disappears
- 877:** Ahmad ibn Tulun, govemor of Egypt, invades Syria
- 878:** the Arabs capture Sicily and make Palermo their capital
- 879:** the Safarid ruler Yaqub Leys revolts against the Arabs and unifies most of Persia
- 880:** the Abbasid dynasty is replaced in Egypt by a Turkic dynasty
- 890:** the Abbasids suppress the imamate of Oman
- 899:** the Samanids defeat the Saffarids and expand their empire to Persia but adopt the Persian language
- 900:** the sufist Junayd preaches the ecstasy of enlightenment
- 909:** the Ibadi imamate of Tahart (Algeria) dissolves
- 910:** Ubaydullah, a descendant of Ali and Fatima (Mohammed's daughter) and an imam, conquers Tunisia and founds the Fatimid dynasty
- 912:** the Umayyad ruler of Spain, Abd Rahman III, assumes the title of caliph, declaring Spain independent
- 922:** the sufist Hallaj is executed in Baghdad for heresy ("I am the truth")

- 932:** the Turkic Qarakhanid dynasty is founded in Kashgar
- 942:** the Samanids expands in Central Asia (Bukhara, Samarkand, Herat) and move their capital to Bukhara, which becomes one of the cultural centers of the Muslim world
- 945:** the Buyids (shiite) descend from the Caspian Sea, and invade Persia
- 949:** Adud Dawla of the Buyid dynasty adopts the Persian imperial title shah
- 950:** Pahlavi, the language of Persia, is reformed according to the Arabic script
- 955:** the Karakhanid state converts to Islam
- 962:** the Ghaznavid kingdom is founded in Afghanistan (at Ghazni) by Alp-tegin, a Turkic slave soldier of the Samanids
- 969:** the Fatimids (shiites) conquer Egypt and establish the Fatimid caliphate (shiite)
- 972:** a fire kills 17,000 people in Baghdad
- 973:** the Fatimids move their capital to the newly-founded city of Cairo (Qahira)
- 977:** the Buyid shah Adud Dawla conquers Baghdad and seizes effective control of the caliphate from the Abbasids
- 977:** Sebaktigin, king of the Ghaznavid kingdom, invades northern India and Central Asia
- 985:** the Turkic-speaking Seljuks (led by Seljuk) invade Transoxania (Ilkhan) and convert to sunnite Islam
- 995:** Gurgandj (Kunya-Urgench, Turkmenistan) becomes the capital of the Khorezmshakh state
- 999:** the Ghaznavids of Afghanistan defeat the Samanids of Persia in Khurasan and the Qarakhanids seize Bukhara
- 1000:** Timbuktu is founded in Africa by Muslim traders
- 1016:** Pisa and Genoa defeat the Arabs in the Tyrrhenian Sea
- 1020:** the philosopher Ibn Sina Avicenna writes the Canon of Medicine
- 1030:** Mahmud Ghazni dies and the Ghaznavid empire declines
- 1031:** the Umayyad caliphate collapses and Muslim Spain splits into the Taifa kingdoms (Sevilla, Toledo, Saragossa, Granada)
- 1038:** the Seljuks, led by Toghrul Beg, defeat the Ghaznavids near Merv and invade Persia
- 1055:** the Seljuks (sunni) defeat the Buyids (shiite), invade Mesopotamia and install themselves in Baghdad under the suzerainty of the Abbasids
- 1062:** the Almoravids, a militant Berber party of strict Muslims, conquer Morocco and establish their capital at Marrakesh
- 1064:** the Seljuk king Alp Arslan moves the capital to Ray (Tehran)
- 1064:** the Seljuks invade Armenia
- 1071:** the Seliuqs defeat the Byzantine army at the battle of Malazgird, capture Jerusalem and establishing a sultanate in central Anatolia
- 1072:** the Seliuqs move the capital from Ray (Tehran) to Isfahan
- 1073:** the Seliuqs defeat Qarakhanids
- 1076:** the Seliuqs invade Syria and Palestine
- 1076:** the Almoravids defeat the kingdom of Ghana

- 1083:** Alfonso VI of Castilla defeats the Arabs at Toledo
- 1090:** Hasan ibn al-Sabbah acquires the mountain fortress of Alamut, assumes the title of Sheikh al-Jabal and founds the Empire of the Assassins
- 1091:** the Normans conquer Sicily
- 1092:** Mohammed I ibn Malikshah dies and the Seljuq empire breaks up into independent kingdoms in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Anatolia (Rum)
- 1096:** the Pope launches the first Crusade to conquer Jerusalem
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- 1097:** the Crusaders under Godfrey of Bouillon capture Jerusalem
- 1100:** Ghazali and "kalam" (rational theology)
- 1175:** Ibn Rushd Averroes proclaims the two truths (religion for the uneducated masses and philosophy for the educated elite)
- 1118:** Arabs import gunpowder from China (a mixture of potassium nitrate, sulfur and charcoal) and arms and artillery are invented
- 1130:** rise of the Almohad dynasty in Algeria, founded by Muhammad ibn Tumart
- 1144:** the Muslims captures Edessa and destroy the oldest Crusader state
- 1195:** Alfonso VIII of Castilla is defeated by the Almohads at Alarcos
- 1146:** the Almohads, led by Abdul-Mu'min, conquer Morocco from the Almoravids and cause the collapse of the Almoravid dynasty
- 1152:** the Almohads conquer Algeria from the Almoravids
- 1153:** the Khwarazmis conquer Persia from the Seljuqs
- 1158:** the Almohads conquer Tunisia from the Almoravids
- 1169:** Saladin Ayubbid, a Kurdish general, ends the Fatimid dynasty in Egypt and founds the Ayubbid dynasty
- 1172:** the Almohads conquer Andalucia from the Almoravids and move the capital to Sevilla
- 1174:** Saladin takes Damascus from the Syrian ruler
- 1175:** the Ghaznavid state is absorbed into the Ghurid empire, which is also Turkic-speaking
- 1176:** Byzantium is defeated by the Turks of Rum at Myriokephalon
- 1187:** Saladin retakes Palestine and Jerusalem
- 1192:** Saladin signs an armistice with King Richard I of England and grants the Christians a small kingdom outside Jerusalem
- 1193:** Saladin's brother Malik Adil becomes sultan of Egypt and Syria
- 1194:** the Seljuqs conquer Anatolia
- 1194:** the last Persian Seljuq ruler dies and Seljuq power collapses in Iran
- 1196:** the Marinid dynasty takes over Morocco
- 1200:** the sufist Ibn Arabi preaches pantheism (only god exists)
- 1212:** the Christian kings of Spain defeat the Almohads at the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa
- 1220:** the Mongols invade Transoxania (Bukhara and Samarkand) and Iran/Persia

1228: the Hafsid dynasty takes over Tunisia

1241: Batu's younger brother Shayban raids Hungary and then splits, establishing the Shaybanid Horde

1243: the Mongols conquer the Seljuk Rum state in Anatolia

1248: Ferdinand III of Castilla conquers Sevilla, capital of the Almohads, and the Almohads are left with the state of Granada

1250: the Alhambra is built in Granada

1252: the Ayubbid dynasty in Egypt is overthrown by the Mamluks (Turkish "military slaves")

1256: Hulagu Khan's Mongol army destroy the Assassins' castles

1258: the Mongols destroy the Abbasid caliphate of Baghdad (killing 800,000 people including the last Abbasid caliph), conquer Persia, Mesopotamia and Syria and establishing an Ilkhanate with capital in Baghdad

1260: the Mamluks stop the Mongols in Syria and annex Syria

1263: the Mongol leader Hulegu assumes the title of "Ilkhan" as ruler of Persia

1269: collapse of the Almohad dynasty in Algeria

1274: the Persian astronomer Nasir Al-Din Tusi builds the Maraghah observatory

1282: the new Shaybanid khan Uzbek converts the Shaybanid horde to Islam and his horde becomes known as the Uzbeks

1294: Kublai Khan dies and the empire fragments in khanates, one of them being the Ilkhanate, descendants of Hulegu, with capital in Tabriz

1295: Ghazan, the Ilkhan, converts to Islam, and the Ilkhanate becomes a sultanate

1300: Ibn Taymiyya criticizes sufism

1301: Osman founds the Ottoman dynasty in Anatolia

1301: Shaykh Safi al-Din, founder of the Safavid dynasty, founds a sufi order in Azerbaijan

1313: warlord Uzbek leads a group of Islamic Mongols in Central Asia

1326: the Ottomans led by Orhan take Bursa and make it their capital

1331: the Ottomans conquer Nicaea

1335: Abu Said dies and the Ilkhanate disintegrates

1342: Shaybanid khan Uzbek dies

1350: Ibn Battuta travels from Tangier to China

1350: the Sheybanid horde (southeast of the Urals) renames itself Uzbek

1354: the Ottomans occupy Gallipoli, first outpost in Europe

1361: the Ottomans led by Murad I conquer Adrianopole, change its name to Edirne and make it their capital

1362: Murad succeeds Orhan as sultan of the Ottomans

1365: the turkic-speaking Timur overthrow the Chaghatai khanate and conquers Iran (Persia), the old Ilkhanate, establishing his capital in Samarkand

1389: the Ottomans defeat Serbia at the battle of Kosovo but the Serbs kill Murad

1393: the Ottomans, under Murad's son Bayazid I, conquer

Bulgaria and Wallachia

1393: Ottoman sultan Bayezid I, son of Murad, besieges Constantinople

1402: Timur defeats the Ottomans at Ankara and captures Ottoman sultan Beyazid I who dies in captivity

1413: Timur's empire collapses and the Ottomans, led by Bayazid's son Mehmet I, recover their territories

1439: Ottomans under Murad II annex Serbia

1440: Ottomans under Murad II besiege Belgrade

1444: Ottomans under Murad II defeat the crusaders at the battle of Varna

1444: Muhammad/Mehmet II succeeds Murad II

1451: Muhammad Shaybani becomes the khan of the Uzbeks

1453: the Ottoman Turks under Mehmet II capture Constantinople/Byzantium and rename it Istanbul

1460: the Ottomans conquer Greece and Serbia

1461: the Ottomans conquer Trebizond

1462: Vlad IV of Wallachia is defeated by the Ottomans sultan Mehmet II

1466: part of the Golden Horde splits off to form the Khanate of Astrakhan, that rules over Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

1468: the Kazaks split from the Uzbeks, who become Shaybanid with capital in Bukhara (descendants of Shayban, grandson of Genghis Khan)

1475: the world's first coffee shop, "Kiva Han", opens in Istanbul

1479: Venezia loses most of her territories along the Aegean Sea to the Ottomans

1481: Mehmet II dies and is succeeded by Bayazid II

1488: Moroccans invade the African kingdom of Mali

1492: the Christian kingdoms reconquer all of Spain

1492: the Ottoman Empire gives asylum to the Sephardic Jews expelled from the Christian kingdoms of Spain

1497: Babur, a descendant of both Genghis Khan and Timur, becomes the ruler of Ferghana and founds the Mughal (Mogul) dynasty

1500: the Uzbeks cross the Syr Darya river and enter Transoxiana

1501: Shah Ismail I (a 14-year old boy from the northwest who claims to be a descendant of the 12th imam) unites Iran/Persia and most of Afghanistan, founds the Safavid dynasty with capital in Isfahan and declares Shiism as the state religion

1505: the Shaybanid Horde (Uzbeks) under Muhammad Shaybani expel the Timurids from Transoxiana and capture Samarkand

1506: the Uzbek Shaybanids capture Bukhara (Uzbekistan) and Herat (Afghanistan), bringing to an end the Timurid dynasty

1510: the Uzbek khan Muhammad Shaybani dies in battle against the Safavids at Merv

1511: the Marinid dynasty collapses in Morocco and is succeeded by the Saadi dynasty

1512: Selim I becomes Ottoman sultan

1514: the Ottomans of Selim I defeat Shah Ismail I Safavid army at Chaldiran (Iran/Persia) thereby conquering Arabia

1514: the first book in Arabic (a book of Christian prayers) is published in Italy

1516: the Ottomans of Selim I defeat the Mamluks and annex Syria, Palestine, Egypt and western Arabia

1520: Selim dies and Suleyman becomes the ruler of the Ottoman empire

1521: the Ottomans under Suleyman capture Belgrade

1522: Babur captures Afghanistan

1522: the Ottomans under Suleyman capture Rhodes

1526: Babur captures Delhi and founds the Mogul empire in India

1526: the Hungarian army is defeated at the battle of Mohacs by the Ottomans of Suleyman and Hungary is partitioned between the Ottoman Empire and the Hapsburgs, with Hungary proper under Ottoman occupation, Transylvania as a Turkish protectorate and Slovakia is annexed by the Hapsburg Monarchy

1529: the Ottomans besiege Wien (Vienna)

1534: the Ottomans capture Baghdad

1538: Abdullah Shaybanid II expands the Shaybanid (Uzbek) empire and moves the capital to Bukhara

1550: the mosque of Sultan Suleyman in Istanbul

1555: the Ottoman empire conquers Mesopotamia from the Safavid empire with the Peace of Amasya

1566: Suleyman dies

1571: the Ottomans conquer Cyprus from Venezia

1571: in the battle of Lepanto an army formed by the Pope, Spain, Venezia and Genova destroys the Ottoman navy, thus halting Ottoman expansion in the Mediterranean

1574: the Hafsid dynasty collapses in Tunisia and is replaced by the Ottomans

1578: Peace reached between Spain and Ottoman empire

1580: Ottoman sultan Mourad III and Felipe II of Spain sign a treaty dividing spheres of influence in the Mediterranean

1587: Safavid king Shah Abbas I creates a gunpowder-based military force

1591: Morocco captures the Kingdom of Songhai (Timbuktu) at the battle of Tondibi

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1598: Abdullah Shaybanid II of the Uzbeks dies and the Astrakhanid dynasty inherits power in Transoxiana, retaining the capital at Bukhara

1619: the Shaybanid (Uzbek) khan Yalangtush Bahador begins construction of the Sher Dor madrasa in Samarkand's Registan

1623: the Safavids capture Baghdad from the Ottomans

1628: the Sadid dynasty collapses in Morocco and is succeeded by the Alawis

163#: the Oyrats conquer the Kazaks

1638: the Ottomans capture Baghdad from the Safavids

1646: the Uzbeks begin construction of the Tilla Kari madrasa in Samarkand's Registan

1665: Sabbatai Sevi is recognized by the Jews of Palestine as the Messiah but is then forced by the Ottoman sultan to convert to

Islam

1682: beginning of the Hundred Year War between the Hapsburg monarchy and the Ottoman empire

1683: the Ottomans besiege Vienna again but are defeated by a Polish-Lithuanian army and their decline begins

1686: the Ottomans are ejected from Budapest

1687: the Parthenon of Athens is destroyed in an explosion

1699: the Ottomans lose Hungary to the Holy Roman Empire ("Treaty of Carlowitz")

1672: the Alawi sultan Mawlay Ismail of Morocco reforms government

1722: Mahmoud Khan, an Afghan chieftain, revolts against the Safavids, invades Iran/Persia and captures Isfahan, thus ending the Safavid dynasty

1727: first printing press in the Islamic world (Istanbul)

1729: Iranian/Persian general Nadir Shah expels the Afghans

1729: the first book is published in the Ottoman empire (the first book ever published in a Muslim country)

1731: Russians help the Kazaks against the Oyrats and de facto annexes Kazakhstan

1738: Iranian/Persian general Nadir Shah invades India and captures Delhi

1740: the Astrakhanid dynasty collapses and Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are absorbed into Iran/Persia

1747: Nadir Shah is assassinated and Iran/Persia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan disintegrate

1747: Ahmad Shah Duran, the Afghan commander of Nadir's bodyguard, proclaims himself the ruler of Afghanistan with capital in Kandahar and founds the Durrani dynasty

1749: the Ibadis establish the kingdom of Oman, run by the Al Bu Said dynasty

1750: Abd Wahab preaches in Arabia a return to Ibn Hanbal (strict obedience to the Koran and the Hadith)

1756: the Sabah family seizes power in Kuwait, a principality of the Ottoman empire

1760: Abd Wahab allies with Muhammad Ibn Saud of Diriyya and founds the Saudi state in Arabia

1768: Ottoman-Russian war

1774: the Russians defeat the Ottomans and annex Crimea

1776: Timur Shah Durrani moves the Durrani capital from Kandahar to Kabul

1793: the Ottoman sultan Selim III proclaims the "new order"

1794: Agha Mohammad Qajar of a Turkic tribe unifies Iran (Persia), Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and founds the Qajar dynasty

1798: Napoleon attempts to conquer Egypt from the Ottomans

1801: Thomas Jefferson orders the bombing of the barbary states of Algiers, Morocco, Tunis and Tripoli after Yusuf Karamanli, the ruler of Tripoli, demands ransom from the USA

1804: Karageorge leads an uprising against the Ottoman Empire

1805: Mehemet Ali, an Albanian Turk, becomes the Ottoman

governor of Egypt

1804: Muslim Wahabis of the Saudi state capture Mecca and Medina

1808: the Serbs revolt against the Ottomans

1808: Ottoman emperor Mahmud II launches western-style reforms

1811: Ottoman governor Mehemet Ali destroys the Mamluk army and seizes control of Egypt, but the Egyptian rulers maintain power on Sudan

1812: the Russians defeat the Ottomans and annex Bessarabia

1821: Greece begins an independence war against the Ottomans

1822: Egyptian ruler Mehemet Ali conquers Sudan on behalf of the Ottoman empire

1823: Egyptian ruler Mehemet Ali conquers Crete

1823: Ottoman Empire and Iran sign a peace treaty defining their borders

1824: Riyadh is made capital of the Saudi kingdom

1827: France, Britain and Russia help the Greek uprising against the Ottomans, the fleet of the Ottomans and of Mehemet Ali is sunk at Navarino, and the expansion of Ali's Egyptian empire is halted

1828: Iran (Persia) loses the Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) to Russian

1830: the Serbs declare the independent state of Serbia

1830: France occupies Algiers

1833: at the end of the independence war, Greece is granted independence from the Ottoman empire but France, Britain and Russia force it to accept 17-year old Otto I of Bavaria as its king

1833: Egyptian ruler Mehemet Ali conquers Syria from the Ottoman Empire

1838: England and the Ottoman Empire sign a trade treaty

1839: the port of Aden in Arabia is occupied by the British

1839: Britain fails to invade the Durrani kingdom (Afghanistan)

1841: the Ottoman empire signs the Straits convention

1847: France invades all of Algeria

1853: In the Crimean war Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire fight Russia (the first major war in which Christian countries side with a Muslim country)

1856: Russia's Black Sea fleet is destroyed but the the Ottoman empire loses the Crimean War and the treaty of Paris gives the Ottomans a protectorate over Moldavia, Wallachia and Serbia

1797: Venezia loses its independence to Napoleon

1858: collapse of the Mogul empire in India

1860: Muslims in Lebanon and Syria riot against the wealthier Christians

1860: Spain invades Morocco

1861: Tunisia proclaims the first constitution of the Arab world, granting civil rights and rights to foreigners and Jews to own land

1861: an autonomous region is created in Lebanon

1862: Ismail, a successor of Muhammad Ali, becomes the ruler of Egypt

1862: Otto I is deposed by the Greeks and replaced by a son of the

Danish king

1866: the Ottoman protectorates of Moldavia and Wallachia unite in the federation of Romania

1868: Russia invades Uzbekistan

1869: Egypt opens the Suez canal

1878: the Congress of Berlin, chaired by Bismark, limits Russian naval expansion, reduces the size of Bulgaria, hands Cyprus to Britain and Bosnia to Austria, and grants Montenegro, Serbia, and Romania independence

1876: the Ottoman constitution is proclaimed

1878: Russia defeats the Ottomans and at the Congress of Berlin the states of Serbia and Montenegro are granted independence and Bulgaria is granted broad autonomy

1879: Britain invades Afghanistan which becomes, de facto, a British colony

1881: France occupies Tunisia

1881: Persia loses Turkmenistan to Russia

1885: Sudan expels Egypt

1885: the Ottoman provinces of Bulgaria unite and become de-facto independent

1885: Jews from central and eastern Europe emigrate to Palestine

1888: the Convention of Constantinople declares the Suez Canal neutral and guarantees passage during war or peace

1889: work begins on the Baghdad railway, meant to link Berlin to the Gulf via Istanbul

1889: Ottoman army and navy officers organize the Committee of Union and Progress (the "Young Turks")

1894: 100,000 Armenians are killed by Kurds following the orders of sultan Abdulhamid II

1897: Jews of Palestine led by Theodor Herzl at Basel (Switzerland) call for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine (first Zionist Congress)

1898: the Ottoman protectorate grants autonomy to Crete

1898: Britain occupies Sudan

1902: Abdul al-Aziz, at the head of a bedouin army, conquers Riyadh and begins to unite south of Arabia (both through military action and marriage with 20 women) under the puritanical Wahabi Islamic order

1902: Egypt inaugurates the Aswan dam

1905: Constitutional revolution in Iran

1906: First democratically elected parliament in Iran

1907: France invades southern Morocco

1907: Britain and Russia sign a treaty dividing Iran into respective spheres of influence

1908: the "Young Turks" stage a revolution and depose sultan Abdulhamid II of the Ottoman empire

1908: Crete, taken from the Ottomans, unites with Greece

1908: the first oil well is drilled in the Middle East (Iran)

1908: Austria annexes the Ottoman provinces Bosnia and Herzegovina

1908: Romania and Bulgaria declare their independence from the

Ottoman empire

1909: Tel Aviv is founded as a Hebrew speaking Jewish city

1911: Russia invades the northern provinces of Iran

1912: Italy takes Libya and the Dodecanese islands from the Ottoman Empire

1912: a Balkan League of Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece declares war on the Ottoman Empire and drives the Ottomans almost entirely out of Europe ("Balkan war"), with Greece almost doubling in size

1913: the Ottoman protectorate of Crete is incorporated in Greece

1913: a triumvirate (minister of war Enver, interior minister Talat, Istanbul governor Jemal) rules the Ottoman empire

1914: the Ottoman Empire enters World War I in an alliance with Germany and Austria

1914: there are 85,000 Jews in Palestine

1914: Egypt becomes a British protectorate

1915: the Ottoman empire massacres 1.2 millions of Armenians

1915: Britain recognizes the kingdom of the Saudis in south Arabia

1916: Husayn (Hussein), sharif of Mecca (north Arabia) and founder of the modern Hashimite dynasty, leads a revolt against the Ottoman Empire, while Britain and France secretly agree to divide the Arab lands of the Ottoman empire

1917: the "Balfour Declaration" by the British government promises a Jewish homeland in Palestine

1917: Exodus of Jews from Egypt to British Palestine

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1918: the Ottoman Empire is defeated in World War I

1918: Britain takes control of Iraq and Transjordan

1918: Yemen becomes independent from the Ottomans under Yahya, the imam of the Zaydis

1919: Afghanistan gains independence from Britain

1919: France claims Syria and Lebanon

1920: France defeats Arab troops at Maysalun And General Gouraud's French mandate rule is installed over Syria

1920: Palestine becomes a British protectorate

1920: Syrian-born ex-Ottoman official Sati al-Husri preaches Arab nationalism

1921: the British install Abdullah, fourth son of Sharif Hussein of the Hashemite dynasty, as king of Transjordan

1921: general Reza Khan seizes power in Iran with a coup and becomes war minister

1922: Egypt declares its independence from Britain under Fuad I and a secular constitution is proclaimed to create a parliamentary monarchy

1922: the British install Faisal, third son of Sharif Hussein, brother of Abdullah of Transjordan, as king of the newly created state of Iraq

1922: Syria and Lebanon become French protectorates

1922: Britain receives a mandate from the League of Nations to create a homeland for the Jews in Palestine, which starts large-scale Jewish immigration from Europe

1923: Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) abolishes the Ottoman empire, declares Turkey a republic, replaces the Arabic script with the Latin alphabet, outlaws the Islamic veil for women, and moves the capital from Istanbul to Ankara

1925: Reza Khan appoints himself as Shah of Persia, the Qajar dynasty ends and the Pahlavi dynasty begins

1926: Abdul al-Aziz conquers north Arabia from the Hashemites and proclaims himself king of Saudi Arabia

1927: oil fields are discovered near Karkuk in Iraq and king Faisal grants oil rights to the British

1927: Turkey grants women the right to coeducation

1928: Hassan Al-Banna creates "Al-Ikhwan Al-Moslemoon" (Muslim Brotherhood) in Egypt, a quasi-monastic movement that advocates for the entire Arab world a fundamentalist Islamic society like the one created by the Wahabites in Saudi Arabia and therefore advocates rebellion against the westernized Egyptian government

1929: hundreds of people die in clashes between Arabs and Jews in Palestine

1932: Iraq becomes independent under the rule of King Faisal

1932: Saudi Arabia becomes independent under the rule of King Abdul al-Aziz

1932: Iraq enacts antisemitic laws

1933: King Faisal of Iraq dies and his son, King Ghazi I, ascends to the throne

1933: Zahir Shah becomes king of Afghanistan

1935: Reza changes Persia's name to Iran

1935: Turkey grants women the right to vote

1936: Fuad dies and his son Farouk becomes king of Egypt

1936: Arabs revolt against British rule in Palestine (first "intifada")

1938: oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait by an American company

1939: all Arab countries supply only 5% of the world's oil

1939: King Ghazi of Iraq dies in a car accident while he is preparing an invasion of Kuwait, and is succeeded by the regent Abd al Ilah

1941: during World War II, Britain and the Soviet Union invade Iran and Reza is forced to abdicate in favor of his son Reza Pahlavi II

1941: Iraqi prime minister Rashid Ali Al-Gaylani stages a pro-nazi military coup

1941: the Ba' ath Party is founded in Damascus by Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Din Bitar with the mission to unify the whole Arab world in one Arab country

1941: Reza Shah Pahlavi ascends to the throne of Iran when his father is deposed by British and Soviet troops for collaborating with the nazis

1943: Shukri al-Kuwatli leads Syria to independence from the French

1943: Syria and Lebanon declare independence from France

1943: a Pan-Arab party is founded in Syria by Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Din Bitar (later Baath Party)

1945: several thousand Algerians are killed by France during pro-independence riots in Constantine

1945: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan and Yemen found the Arab League

1945: The League of Arab States is formed by the independent Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen)

1946: Jewish terrorists, led by Menachem Begin, bomb and destroy the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, the British military and civilian headquarters

1946: Transjordan becomes independent and changes name to Jordan

1946: Britain and the Soviet Union withdraw from Iran

1947: 800,000 Arabs live in Palestine

1947: the United Nations orders a partition of Palestine in a Jewish state (Israel), an Arab state and an international zone around Jerusalem

1947: the Baath Arab Socialist party is founded in Syria by Michel Aflaq with an emphasis on Arab nationalism

1948: on the same day that Israel declares its independence, five Arab countries attack Israel from all sides (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq)

1948: the Yemeni imam Yahya is assassinated and is succeeded by his son Ahmad

1949: an exodus of Palestinians and prime minister David Ben-Gurion's ethnic cleansing cause a decrease in the population of Arabs within the borders of Israel to 170,000 and the creation of Palestinian refugee camps outside the borders of Israel

1949: a military coup terminates the parliamentary system in Syria

1950: the Israeli government airlifts approximately 110,000 Jews from Iraq to Israel

1950: Turkey holds the first multi-party elections

1951: Mohammad Mossadegh becomes prime minister of Iran and nationalizes the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company

1951: Following persecutions, the population of Jews in Iraq declines from 150,000 (1948) to 6,000 (1951)

1952: a military coup led by Gamal Abdel Nasser removes King Faruk and founds the republic of Egypt

1952: Turkey joins NATO

1952: members of the Muslim Brotherhood assassinate King Abdullah in Jerusalem and King Hussein becomes the new king of Jordan

1952: Libya proclaims its independence

1953: the USA's secret services engineer a coup to remove Iran's prime minister Mohammad Mossadegh

1954: Algerian exiles in Egypt create the Front de Liberation Nationale (FLN) and start the independence war against France

1954: Nasser arrests the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, including their philosopher Sayyid Qutb

1955: Palestinian fedayeen begin operating from across the border bringing terror into Israel

1956: Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt nationalizes the Suez canal, thereby becoming the father of Arab nationalism and moving the Arab world into the Soviet sphere

1956: in retaliation for guerrilla attacks sponsored by Egypt, Israel declares war to Egypt (second war) and invades the Sinai and the Gaza strip, while France and Britain seize the Suez canal

1956: France withdraws from Morocco, and King Mohammed assumes power

1956: the first concrete building is built in Dubai

1956: France withdraws from Tunisia, and Habib Bourguiba becomes its first president

1956: Britain grants Sudan full independence

1958: inspired by Gamal Abdel Nasser, Iraqi officers led by brigadier Abdul-Karim Qassem overthrow the Hashimite monarchy and proclaim a republic

1959: oil is discovered in Libya

1960: the oil developing countries (mainly Arabs) found the OPEC

1961: in Iraq a Kurdish rebellion under the leadership of Mustafa al-Barzani is brutally repressed

1961: Nasser of Egypt launches a program of "Arab socialism"

1961: Tunisian and French forces fight after France refuses to close military bases in Tunisia

1961: Kuwait becomes independent under the protection of Britain

1961: Morocco's King Mohammed dies and is succeeded by Hassan II

1962: Saudi Arabia abolishes slavery

1962: Christians in the south of Sudan begin a civil war

1962: Algeria is declared independent after the deaths of about 100,000 French and about 1,000,000 Algerians and the exiled leader Ben Bella becomes its first president

1962: the shah Reza Pahlevi of Iran introduces a series of reforms (including women's suffrage) called "white revolution"

1962: Yemeni imam Ahmad dies and army officers seize power and form the republic of North Yemen, supported by Egyptian troops

1963: in a military coup the Baath Party seizes power in Syria, outlaws all other parties and embarks in a Soviet-style program of nationalization

1963: Israeli prime minister Ben Gurion resigns

1963: in a military coup the Baath Party seizes power in Iraq

1964: the Palestine Liberation Organization is created in Cairo with the mission to destroy the state of Israel and liberate Palestine

1965: Houari Boumedienne seizes power in Algeria

1965: members of the Muslim Brotherhood try to assassinate Nasser of Egypt

1966: the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Sayyid Qutb, is hanged in Egypt

1966: the British withdraw from Aden and marxists take over (South Yemen)

1967: After Egypt expels UN peacekeepers from the Sinai and

closes the Red Sea to Israeli ships, and Arab countries ammass troops at the Israeli border, Israel attacks and wins a third war against the Arabs, and occupies the lands of the Palestinians (Gaza Strip and West Bank)

1967: Egypt withdraws from Yemen

1968: the British withdraw from the Gulf and the United Arab Emirates are created

1968: the pro-Soviet faction of the Ba'ath Party seizes power in Iraq and appoints Ahmed Hasan al-Bakr president and Saddam Hussein in charge of internal security

1969: colonel Muḥammad Qaddafi becomes dictator of Libya after a successful coup

1969: Jaafar Nimeiri seizes power in Sudan

1969: Yassir Arafat becomes leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization

1970: Egyptian president Nasser dies and is succeeded by his deputy Anwar Sadat

1970: Hafez Assad, Christian leader of the military wing of the Ba'ath Party, overthrows the president of Syria

1970: Palestinian terrorists bomb airplanes and other facilities in Europe

1970: King Hussein of Jordan orders a massive expulsion of Palestinians ("black september")

1970: Arafat, settles in Beirut, Lebanon

1971: the Gulf States (Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrein) become independent

1971: Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan becomes president of the United Arab Emirates

1972: Iraq nationalizes the oil industry

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1972: Palestinian terrorists kill 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics

1973: Egypt and Syria attack Israel (fourth war), but Israel wins again

1973: the OPEC (mainly Arab) countries impose an oil embargo on the western world in retaliation for the Israeli victory

1973: El-Ouali leads a group of Sahrawi (Western Saharan) students to form the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro", or Polisario, fighting for independence from Spain

1974: Turkey invades half of Cyprus to protect the rights of the Turkish population from the Greek majority

1974: French premier Chirac visits Iraq to negotiate the sale of nuclear technology

1974: the Kurdish Worker's Party (Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan or PKK) is founded in Turkey to establish an independent Kurdish state in predominantly Kurdish southeast Turkey

1975: Iraqi troops massacre thousands of Kurdish civilians and rebels after collecting them in "dar al-fana" ("houses of annihilation")

1975: Spain withdraws from Western Sahara, Morocco invades

Western Sahara and the Polisario proclaims the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and begins an independence war against Morocco

1975: Christian and Muslim sects start a civil war in Lebanon

1976: Houari Boumedienne declares Algeria a socialist state

1976: Syria sends troops into Lebanon

1978: Ali Abdallah Saleh is appointed president of North Yemen

1979: the shah Reza Pahlevi is overthrown by the Islamic Revolution and Iran becomes a theocratic republic led by the ayatollah Khomeini with a strong anti-American posture

1979: Egypt and Israel sign a peace treaty

1979: Saddam Hussein seizes power in Iraq and begins a ruthless dictatorship

1979: Soviet troops invade Afghanistan and establish a communist government

1980: "mujaheddin" and volunteers from the Arab world, led by Saudi scion Osama bin Laden, organize the resistance against the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan

1980: Khomeini declares the last friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan as an international day of struggle against Israel and for the liberation of Jerusalem

1980: Abdullah Ocalan leads the PKK in an armed struggles against the Turkish government

1980: Iraq (Saddam Hussein) attacks Iran (Khomeini)

1980: Iraqi ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Sadr, leader of Iraq's first Shiite political party, is assassinated by Saddam Hussein's regime

1980: Berbers demonstrate against Arab domination in Algeria ("Spring of Kabyle")

1981: Egyptian president Sadat is assassinated by a radical Muslim organization and is succeeded by Hosni Mubarak

1982: Assad orders the bombing of Hama, one of Syria's major cities, for 27 days, killing more than 20,000 people

1982: the Hezbollah is founded by a radical shiite group with the mission of creating an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon

1982: Fahd bin 'Abdulaziz, 11th son of the founder of the Saudi kingdom, ascends to the throne

1983: Christian leader John Garang leads the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in a new civil war against the Sudanese government

1983: a ferry sinks in the Nile, Egypt, and kills 357 people

1983: Iraq uses chemical weapons against Iranian troops

1985: Iraq develops an offensive biological weapons program

1985: Hezbollah suicide commandos organized by Iran blow up the US and French barracks killing 241 marines and 58 French soldiers

1985: Nimeiri is deposed in Sudan

1985: Israel raids the PLO headquarters in Tunis, killing 60 people

1986: American planes bomb Libya trying to assassinate Qaddafi

1987: Palestinians in the occupied territories begin an uprising against Israeli occupation (first "intifada")

1987: 402 people die when Saudi police clash with shia pilgrims in

Mecca

1987: Zine El Abidine Ben Ali overthrows Habib Bourguiba in Tunisia

1987: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, backed by donors in the Gulf states, creates the civilian and military organization Hamas in Gaza, with the goal to drive Israel out of the Middle East and establish an Islamic state

1988: a missile fired by an American warship downs an Iranian civilian plane and kills all 290 passengers aboard

1988: terrorists backed by Libya blow up a Pan Am plane over Scotland killing 259 people probably on behalf of Iran

1988: the war between Iraq and Iran that has cost about one million lives ends with no winner

1988: Iraq uses chemical weapons against Kurds (Halabja massacre)

1988: the Soviet Union withdraws from Afghanistan

1988: Osama bin Laden, in Afghanistan, creates Al Qaeda, a worldwide alliance of (mainly Arab) fundamentalist militants, based on the teachings of Mohammad ibn Abd al-Wahab

1988: Saad Eddin Ibrahim founds the Ibn Khaldun Center in Egypt to promote democracy in the Arab world

1989: a ceasefire is signed between Morocco and the Polisario

1989: Hassan al-Turabi seizes power with a coup and becomes Sudan's Islamist philosopher and dictator, intent on building a pure Islamic society

1989: Khomeini dies and is succeeded by Ali Khomeini

1989: Dutch businessman Frans van Anraat is arrested in Italy at the request of the USA for selling thousands of tons of chemicals that Saddam Hussein's Iraq used to build chemical weapons

1990: Iraqi troops (Saddam Hussein) invade Kuwait and are repelled by an international coalition (including most Arab countries) led by the USA

1990: 1,426 pilgrims die in a stampede in Mecca

1990: the last Christian leader to fight Syria and the Muslims in Lebanon surrenders, the civil war ends and Lebanon becomes a Muslim country under Syrian occupation

1990: Yemen and Aden are unified under Ali Abdullah Saleh

1990: the Iraqi army has 1.4 million soldiers, the fourth largest in the world after the Soviet Union, the USA and China

1991: Saudi Arabia expels Osama bin Laden for his anti-government stance

1991: a ferry capsizes in Egypt killing 464 people

1992: the Mujahideen guerrillas dislodge the communist regime from Afghanistan

1992: The Algerian army, led by general Khaled Nezzar, cancels national elections won by Abassi Madani's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and seizes power, while the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front begin a guerrilla campaign, supported by Iran

1994: the Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin signs an agreement to start a peace process with Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which is granted the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

1994: Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement begin a series of suicide terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians

1994: 270 pilgrims die in a stampede in Mecca

1995: Israeli prime minister Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish fundamentalist

1995: Kurdish terrorists carry out their first suicide bombing

1996: Osama bin Laden calls for worldwide attacks on Americans, including civilians, while his commandos spread around the world, from Somalia to the USA

1996: with help from Osama bin Laden, the Taliban militia, inspired by the writings of Sayyid Qutb and the teachings of Mohammad ibn Abd al-Wahab, dislodges the mujahedin government from Afghanistan and installs one of the most fundamentalistic Muslim governments in the world

1996: former BBC employees launch Al-Jazeera, the first pan-Arab satellite news channel (from Qatar)

1996: Saddam Hussein foils a coup by Iyad Allawi, who has to flee Iraq

1996: Hundreds of prisoners are killed by police in a jail of Tripoli, Libya, after they stage a protest

1997: Mohammad Khatami, a moderate, is elected president of Iran, but the ayatollahs still control the army

1997: 340 pilgrims die in a fire at Mina, Saudi Arabia

1997: Islamic terrorists affiliated to Ayman al-Zawahiri attack foreigners in Cairo and Luxor, Egypt, killing 62 people

1998: terrorists affiliated with Osama bin Laden blow up the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania

1998: the U.S.A. bombs Sudan for helping terrorists and Afghanistan's camps where Osama bin Laden trains his militants

1998: Emile Lahoud is appointed president of Lebanon

1999: Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the candidate of general Khaled Nezzar, is elected president of Algeria after all other candidates withdraw or are disqualified

1999: the Islamic rebels enter peace talks with the Algerian government after 150,000 people have been killed in the civil war

1999: Abdullah Ocalan is captured by the Turkish government

1999: King Hussein of Jordan dies and is succeeded by his son Abdullah

1999: Morocco's king Hassan II dies and is succeeded by his son Mohammed VI

1999: Umar al-Bashir has Turabi arrested in Sudan

1999: a raid on a Teheran student dormitory by Iranian police and right-wing vigilantes triggers student riots

2000: Assad of Syria dies and is succeeded by his son Bashir

2000: Saad Eddin Ibrahim is arrested by Egypt and the Ibn Khaldun Center is shut down

2000: a second "intifada" is started after Israeli-Palestinian negotiations break down

2000: 70% of Palestinian children interviewed by the Arab psychologist Fadal Abu-Hin want to become martyrs

2001: the Islamic government of Afghanistan destroy the century-

old Buddha statues of Bamiyan

2001: Algerian suicide bombers kill Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the leader of the anti-Taliban resistance (Northern Alliance)

2001: the Sudanese government arrests several leaders of the Islamist party (Popular National Congress), including its leader Hassan al-Turabi

2001: Youstol Dispage Fromscaruffi dies

2001: suicide bombings in several Israeli cities are carried out by Hamas and Islamic Jihad and Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon retaliates with bombings, assassinations and invasions

2001: Arab terrorists associated with Osama bin Laden attack the USA

2001: in retaliation for Osama bin Laden's terrorism, the USA invades Afghanistan, removes both the Taliban and Al Qaeda from power, and installs Hamid Karzai as president

2001: the Gulf states of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) pledge to adopt a unified currency

2002: The Sudanese government and the Christian rebels of the SPLA sign a ceasefire agreement

2002: the Kurdish independence movement PKK changes name to "Kurdish Freedom and Democracy Congress" (KADEK)

2003: the Islamic-oriented "Justice and Development Party" (AK Party) wins elections in Turkey and Recep Tayyip Erdogan becomes the country's prime minister

2003: George W Bush orders the invasion of Iraq to depose Saddam Hussein

2003: 34 people die in a suicide bombing attack on westerners in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

2003: 41 people die in a suicide bombing attack on westerners in Casablanca, Morocco, carried out by members of Al Qaeda's affiliate Salafia Jihadia

2003: Hamas and Al-Aqqa Brigades unleash five suicide attacks within 48 hours in Israel the day after the first meeting between Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas

2003: students demonstrate in Teheran against the Iranian regime, helped by USA-based television stations and by radio stations run by Iranian exiles

2003: militias of cleric Al-Sadr kill rival cleric Majeed Al-Khoei who just returned from his exile in Iran

2003: Darfur rebels demanding autonomy launch attacks against the Sudanese government

2003: hundreds of people are killed in terrorist attacks in Iraq

2003: 17 people die in a suicide bombing attack on foreign Arab workers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

2003: terrorists attack an Italian peacekeepers' base in Nasiriya, Iraq

2003: bombs in synagogues kill 25 people in Istanbul, Turkey

2003: bombs against western institutions kill 58 people in Istanbul, Turkey

2003: The Egyptian government allows the Ibn Khaldun Center,

founded in 1988 by Saad Eddin Ibrahim to promote democracy in the Arab world, to reopen (Near International)

2003: Qaddafi of Libya admits a broad program of weapons of mass destruction and accepts to destroy it in return for an end to USA sanctions

2003: Jordanian terrorist Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi begins a campaign of terror in Iraq

2004: dozens of Iraqi Kurds are killed by suicide bombers of the Muslim militant group Ansar al-Islam (affiliated with Al Qaeda)

2004: 251 pilgrims die in a stampede at Mina, Saudi Arabia

2004: the USA calls for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon

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2004: 244 people die in a A stampede at the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia

2004: Hamid Karzai wins free democratic elections in Afghanistan

2004: a train accident kills 295 people in Iran

2004: Iran's ayatollahs outlaw most of the opposition candidates so that parliamentary elections are won by the conservative party

2004: 181 Shia Muslims die in terrorist attacks in Karbala and Baghdad (Iraq) during the yearly holy festival

2004: 50 Shias die in terrorist attacks in Basra Baghdad (Iraq)

2004: in one year, about 300,000 bodies have been found buried in mass graves, victims of Saddam Hussein's regime

2004: Arab militias (JANjaweed militias led by Sheik Musa Hilal) carry out massive atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region

2004: Sudan and John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) sign a peace deal, ending a civil war that cost the lives of two million people

2004: former exile Iyad Allawi is named prime minister of Iraq by the USA

2004: terrorists attack a compound for foreigners in the eastern Saudi Arabian city of Khobar killing 22 people

2004: car bombs set by Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi's terrorists and by Saddam Hussein loyalists explode in several cities of Iraq killing hundreds of civilians

2004: the USA and Britain admit that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction (which was the reason to invade Iraq)

2004: Islamic fundamentalists kill 16 people in Algeria

2004: Arafat dies and is replaced by Muhammad Abbas as chairman of the PLO

2004: Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan dies and his son Khalifa ibn-Zayed succeeds him as president of the United Arab Emirates

2004: Iran is accused by the USA of trying to build a nuclear weapon and accepts to stop enriching uranium

2004: the first "Democratic Forum for Arab Women" is held in Yemen

2004: Sudanese government and southern rebel sign a peace deal, and ex-rebel leader John Garang becomes Sudan's vice-president

2004: Arafat dies in France, of causes that are kept secret (probably AIDS), and is replaced by Muhammad Abbas as chairman of the PLO, who wins the first multi-party elections in

Palestine

2005: Muhammad Abbas wins the first democratic elections in Palestine and restarts peace negotiations with Israel

2005: the first democratic elections in Iraq are won by an alliance of Shiite parties (48%), followed by an alliance of Kurdish parties (26%) and by the party of prime minister Allawi (14%)

2005: a car bomb kills former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, who opposed Syrian occupation of the country, and street demonstrations force the resignation of the Syria-installed government

2005: car bombs and suicide bombers kill hundreds of Iraqis every month

2005: the Iraqi parliament elects a Shiite, Ibrahim Jaafari, prime minister, and a Kurd, Jalal Talabani, president

2005: Egyptian archeologists discover the funerary complex at Hierakonpolis, dating from 3600 BC

2005: Syrian troops leave Lebanon

2005: the Gulf states of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) meet in Bahrain to discuss a unified currency and a free trade zone with the USA

2005: more than 8,000 people are killed in Iraq by suicide bombings, car bombings and shootings in the first six months of 2005

2005: Newsweek magazine reports that guards at Guantanamo desecrated the Quran, a news that sparks deadly riots in Afghanistan and anti-American protests in many Islamic countries

2005: a suicide bombing kills more than 20 people in an Afghan mosque

2005: Hundreds of thousands of people (mainly from Asia) are still sold into slavery in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar

2005: The opposition wins the first free elections in Lebanon since the civil war and Fouad Siniora, Rafik Hariri's right-hand man, becomes the new prime minister

2005: Anti-USA conservative cleric Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wins presidential elections in Iran, refuses to dismantle Iran's nuclear program and calls for the destruction of Israel

2005: suicide bombers kill 83 people at the tourist resort of Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt

2005: riots caused by an increase in the price of gasoline kill more than 30 people in Yemen

2005: Sudanese vice-president and former rebel leader John Garang dies in a helicopter crash

2005: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia dies and is replaced by his half brother Prince Abdullah

2005: the price of oil jumps from \$35 at the beginning of the year to an all-time record of \$67 a barrel

2005: Kurdish rebels in Turkey call off the 1999 truce and begin an offensive against Turkish soldiers

2005: Israel withdraws from the West Bank

2005: 965 shia pilgrims die in a stampede at Baghdad, Iraq

2005: Israel withdraws from the Gaza strip after 38 years of occupation

2005: thousands are arrested after riots erupt in Morocco-occupied Western Sahara

2005: a campaign of bombings targets anti-Syrian figures in Lebanon

2005: suicide bombers kill dozens of people in Afghanistan

2005: Ghazi Kenaan, Syria's interior minister, who effectively controlled Lebanon for two decades, "commits suicide"

2005: Iraqi suicide bombers affiliated with Abu Musib al-Zarqawi kill 57 people in three Amman hotels

2005: Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon founds a new centrist party

2005: Russia sells "defense" missiles to Iran

2005: Lebanese anti-Syrian politician Gibran Tuani is killed by a car bomb

2005: Dutch businessman Frans van Anraat is jailed for selling thousands of tons of chemicals that Saddam Hussein's Iraq used to build chemical weapons

2005: More than 1,400 people are killed in Afghanistan, the worst toll since the USA ousted the Taliban

2006: A suicide bomber kills ten people in southern Afghanistan

2006: 362 Muslim pilgrims are killed in a crush during the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia

2006: terrorist group Hamas, famous for suicide bombings targeting Israeli civilians, wins the first multi-party elections in Palestine and its leader Ismail Haniya becomes the new prime minister

2006: Muslims riot worldwide because a Danish newspaper published cartoons of Mohammed

2006: a ferry capsizes in Egypt killing about 1,000 people

2006: Sunni terrorists in Iraq blow up the golden dome of Samarra's Al-Askareyya Shrine

2006: two terrorists are killed in Saudi Arabia before they could detonate bombs against the Abqaiq oil complex

2006: young Kurds riot in Turkey

2006: in march alone, 1313 Iraqi civilians are victims of sectarian violence

2006: bombs kill 23 people at the tourist resort of Dahab, Egypt

2006: Jawad al-Maliki forms a government of national unity in Iraq

2006: Abu Musib al-Zarqawi is killed in Iraq

2006: the price of oil reaches an all-time record of \$79 a barrel

2006: in response to an incursion by Hezbollah militants, Israel invades southern Lebanon killing more than 1,000 Lebanese civilians while Hezbollah kills 116 Israeli soldiers and 43 Israeli civilians

2006: the opposition wins parliamentary elections in Kuwait

2006: 21 people die in a car bomb attack on a market in southern Afghanistan

2006: Israeli forces withdraw after expelling Hezbollah from

southern Lebanon and the Lebanese army takes control for the first time of the region

2006: Taliban militants adopt the suicide attacks used by insurgents in Iraq and launch 78 suicide bombings across Afghanistan in the first nine months, killing close to 200 people

2006: Muslims riot worldwide against anti-Islamic comments made by Pope Benedict

2006: Lebanese Christian politician Pierre Gemayel is assassinated

2006: more than 350 Palestinians are killed in internal fighting in Gaza after Israel withdraws

2006: Saddam Hussein is executed in Iraq for the crimes committed by his regime

2006: 34,452 Iraqi civilians are killed in 2006

2007: the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) renames itself as Al Qaeda In The Maghreb and begins a campaign of terrorist attacks in Algeria

2007: Hamas and Fatah fight in the streets of Gaza

2007: Hamas militants shoot rockets at Israel

2007: Lebanon's militant group Fatah Islam kills 23 soldiers in clashes in Tripoli's Palestinian refugee camp

2007: a bomb kills 6 people in Ankara, Turkey

2007: More than 2,300 people die in insurgency-related violence in Afghanistan in the first five months of 2007

2007: Former British prime minister Tony Blair is appointed Middle Eastern envoy on behalf of the USA, Russia, the UN and the EU

2007: the USA accuses Iran of helping insurgents kill USA soldiers in Iraq

2007: seven western tourists are killed by a suicide bomber in Yemen

2007: a suicide bomber kills 10 Algerian soldiers

2007: more than 200 Turkish soldiers are killed by Kurdish separatists of the PKK that use Iraq as a base

2007: more than 100 NATO soldiers are killed by Taliban in Afghanistan during the first seven months of 2007

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